

REMARKS

1. Summary of the Office Action

In the Office Action mailed December 29, 2005, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 23 as being obvious over a combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,748,212 B2 (Schmutz) and U.S. Patent No. 20030143948 A1 (Han), claims 9, 17, and 30 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, and U.S. Patent No. 6,782,277 (Chen), claims 10 and 20 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, and U.S. Patent No. 5,907,794 (Lehmusto), claims 11, 15, and 24 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, and U.S. Patent No. 20030162550 (Kuwahara), claim 19 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, and U.S. Patent No. 20040146013 (Song), claim 26 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, and U.S. Patent No. 5,534,872 (Kita), claims 21 and 22 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, Lehmusto, and Kuwahara, claim 27 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, Kita, and U.S. Patent No. 6,799,024 (Wang), claim 31 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, Chen, and Kita, and finally claims 28 and 29 as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz, Han, Kita, Wang, and U.S. Patent No. 6,567,460 (Tak).

2. Status of the Claims

As set forth, claims 1, 7, 16, and 23 have been amended. Now pending in this application are claims 1, 7, 9-12, 14-24, and 26-31, of which claims 1, 7, 16, and 23 are independent, and the remainder are dependent.

Each of claims 1, 7, 9-12, 14-24, and 26-31 includes the functions of (i) causing an antenna of the wireless repeater to sweep over a coverage area through increments, and to thereby receive wireless signals from a plurality of base stations; (ii) at each increment, receiving

wireless signals; (iii) determining a signal-to-noise ratio at each increment; and (iv) based on the signal-to-noise ratio, the wireless repeater repeating the wireless signals at one of the increments.

3. Response to Rejections

a. Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 23

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over a combination of Schmutz and Han. Of these, claims 1, 7, 16, and 23 are independent.

Under M.P.E.P. § 2143, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claim over a combination of references, the Examiner must establish that the combination discloses or suggests every element recited in the claim. Applicant respectfully traverses the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 7, 16, and 23 as amended, because the combination of Schmutz and Han fails to disclose or suggest every element of any of these claims. At a minimum, for instance, the combination of Schmutz and Han fails to disclose or suggest "causing an antenna of the wireless repeater to sweep over a coverage area through increments, and to thereby receive wireless signals from a plurality of base stations," in combination with the other elements that involve receiving wireless signals at each increment and repeating the signals at one of the increments based on the signal-to-noise ratio at each increment.

In setting forth the obviousness rejection, the Examiner admitted that "Schmutz fails to disclose causing an antenna of the wireless repeater to sweep over a coverage area through increments, and at each increment, receiving wireless signals." (Office Action, p. 3). By the present response, Applicant has amended the claims to add to that element the function of thereby receiving wireless signals from a plurality of base stations. Given that Schmutz admittedly does not teach the combination of sweeping the antenna over a coverage area through

increments and receiving wireless signals at each increment, Schmutz necessarily also does not teach that combination of elements together with the added limitation of sweeping the antenna and thereby receiving wireless signals from a plurality of base stations as recited in Applicant's claims.

Further, Han fails to make up for this deficiency in Schmutz. Han teaches a method of pointing an RF repeater antenna in the direction of one particular base station. According to Han, the antenna is moved in various directions, and the repeater RSSI is periodically measured and recorded. The maximum RSSI is then determined, and, when the antenna is pointed at the direction where that maximum RSSI occurs, the conclusion is that the repeater is pointing at the base station.

However, Han fails to teach or disclose "causing an antenna of the wireless repeater to sweep over a coverage area through increments, and to thereby receive wireless signals from a plurality of base stations," in combination with the other elements of Applicant's claims. Indeed, Han, like Schmutz, fails to teach sweeping an antenna across a coverage area and the antenna thereby receiving wireless signals from a plurality of base stations, plus the elements of determining a signal-to-noise ratio at each increment and repeating at one of the increments based on the signal-to-noise ratios, as recited in Applicant's claims. This combination of elements in Applicant's claims advantageously enables a repeater to pick a best direction to point when the repeater is faced with signals from a plurality of base stations. The combination of Schmutz and Han does not suggest this.

Given that the combination of Schmutz and Han fails to disclose or suggest the elements of any of claims 1, 7, 16, and 23, a *prima facie* case of obviousness of these claims over Schmutz and Han does not exist. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 1, 7, 16, and 23 are allowable.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 12, 14, and 18 are also allowable for at least the reason that they each depend from an allowable claim.

b. Claims 9-12, 14, 15, 17-22, 24, and 26-31

Without addressing the Examiner's statements regarding the pending dependent claims 9-12, 14, 15, 17-22, 24, and 26-31, which are not conceded, Applicant points out that these claims all depend from and incorporate the limitations of one or more of independent claims 1, 7, 16, and 23, which, as discussed above, are allowable over the cited art. Accordingly, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-22, 24, and 26-31 are allowable for at least the reason that they each depend from an allowable claim.

4. Conclusion

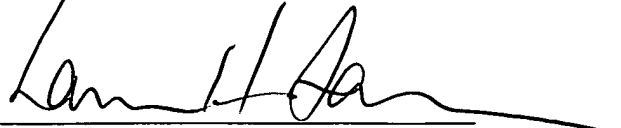
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (312) 913-2141.

Respectfully submitted,

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